Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your support during the past five and a half years. I have really enjoyed my time at St Nicholas and have many treasured memories.

I wish each of you every blessing for a safe and holy Christmas and a very happy 2014.

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Kind regards
Anne Hines

FAREWELL MR TOMCZYK!

Mr Tomczyk has been Assistant Principal at St Nicholas of Myra for ten years. We thank him for all he has done for us. John has taught various classes including Learning Support and has coordinated many of our sport and swimming carnivals and gala days. We wish him every happiness as he takes up his new position as Assistant Principal at Sacred Heart South Mt Druitt.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Mrs Frances Manning who has been appointed as Assistant Principal for 2014. Frances is currently Assistant Principal at Sacred Heart South Mt Druitt.

We also welcome Mr Adam Simpson. Adam is currently a Stage 3 teacher at St Olivers Harris Park.

Promotions Morning

Next Monday 9th December children will move to their classes for 2014 to meet with their new teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Blue</td>
<td>Miss Daniella Biasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Gold</td>
<td>Mrs Nicole Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Blue</td>
<td>Mrs Lisa Cutajar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Gold</td>
<td>Mrs Megan Mann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mrs Virginia Fortunat/Mrs Janelle Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Mrs Ros Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Mr Adam Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Miss Nicole Hoare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Miss Pascale Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Ms Anita Knezevic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Mrs Frances Manning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Mrs Genevieve Lennon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support</td>
<td>Mrs Suzanne Bannister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christmas Celebration

Please join us tomorrow night (6th December) Feast of St Nicholas of Myra for a bush dance and free sausage sizzle.

Celebrations begin at 5:30pm.
Awards Assembly

Our final assembly for 2013 will be held on Friday 13th December at 2pm in the school hall. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

School Reports

These will be sent home next Wednesday, 11th December. Please read the Report Process on page 4 of this newsletter.

School Finishes on Wednesday 18th December 2013

School Starts on Thursday 30th January 2014

Kindy – Blue
Izack Guru
Hayden Kennedy
Charlie Toirkens
Jayden Varlow

Kindy – Gold
Nellie Archer
Jacob Perera
Mia Simmons
Jesse Wells

Year 1
Lucy Keane
Maycee Leala
Lily Meshwang
William Santoro

Year 2
Darcy Brown
Lucas Dankha
Yoga Gunawan
Breanna Haladus

Year 3
Joshua Busine
Angelina He
Aruai Mapieu
Alex Mrsic
Caleb Parkes
Callum Wamsley

Year 4
Alec Carter
Yousha Majdoub
Lachlan Tully
Bonnie May Wheeler

Year 5
Lachlan Becroft
Samantha Madrajat
Thilini Perera
Kayla Teuma

Year 6
Ken Gunawan
Thomas Huggett
Melissa Tracey
Emily Vlores

GOLD AWARD
William Brown

SILVER AWARDS
Skye Haladus
Ante Broz
William Brown
Georgia Finianos
Annabelle Fitch
Natalija Jurenec
Grace Nenadic
Tara Teuma
Lily Vlores
Ben Cavanagh
Levi Chia

SILVER AWARDS
Breanna Haladus
Bowen Reynolds
Elle Moore
Christian Finianos
Stacie Bencroft
Adak Mapieu
Emily Keane
Isaac Sheppard-Coulton
Samual Simmons
John Xiberras

SILVER AWARDS
Nathan Luk
Achan Meshwang
Mawum Meshwang
Joel Stevens
Kiara Daly
Pedro Donoso
Ken Gunawan
Rita Tamer
Georgie Dunn
Michaela Merkas

All Xmas raffle tickets to be returned FRIDAY

Cookie Dough orders to be collected by Friday 6 DEC

Donations for St Vincent de Paul
Hamper Appeal by Friday 13 December, Non perishable food items, Christmas decorations, bon bons etc would be appreciated

Finance Department requests all monies/payments due to the school to be done by Friday 13 December

Are you leaving the school?
If you are not returning to St Nicholas of Myra in 2014, please see school office staff to complete a moving form.
**Parent Helper Thank You**

All parents and carers are warmly invited to morning tea on Thursday 12th December at 11am in the school hall. This is our opportunity to thank you for all your assistance during the year with canteen, excursions, reading, disco, carnivals, fun food days etc. Please join us.

**Mathematics Assessment Interviews**
On Tuesday 28th January and Wednesday 29th January all children will participate in a 1:1 interview to determine their numeracy skills. You will receive confirmation of their interview time shortly. Please be punctual.

**Social Media**
A reminder to use all social media sites eg Facebook appropriately as these are public forums.

**Talent Quest**
This will be held at 9:15am on Wednesday 18th December in the school hall.

**Thank You**
Thank you to Lidia Vlores and Elizabeth Scott for their help with Year 6 Graduation dinner. Thanks to Jo Simmons who has offered to make year 6 graduation cup cakes and to Mel Walker for organizing our graduation morning tea. Thank you to all who have volunteered to assist with our Christmas celebration.

**Words of the week**
This week our words are: Advent and Trinity.
Please ask your children about these words and encourage them to use the words in a sentence.

**Media Survey**
Catholic Education Parramatta are conducting a media survey. Please copy link below into your browser to complete survey. Surveys need to be completed by tomorrow, Friday 6th December.  
http://bit.ly/1fFjF8

**Ice Cream Cone Day—Year 6 fundraiser**
Wednesday 11 December $1 each. (no preorders).

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**End of Year Mass**
You are warmly invited to our end of year Mass to be celebrated in the parish church at 9:30am on Friday 13th December

Thank you to the following who have generously donated towards our Christmas Raffle

- Harvey Norman
- Bowen Therapy—Theresa Wamsley
- Australian National Maritime
- Nutrimetrics—Sam Young
- Australian Reptile Park
- Whitewater Rafting
- Taronga Zoo
- King Henrys Court
- Featherdale Wildlife Park
- Lakeside Restaurant
- Club Paceway
- Nepean Aquatic Centre

It is not too late. If you have a business you may like to donate a voucher for goods or services. Otherwise you may have an unused gift at home that you would like to donate. Thank you
Correspondence

Correspondence which has been sent home in the past fortnight or with this newsletter includes:

- Christmas Raffle Tickets
- Swim School News & John Tomczyk Announcement
- Mathematics Assessment - 2014
- Christmas Bush Dance Help Required
- Swimming Carnival
- St Vincent de Paul Hamper Appeal

Advent Prayer:

Lord Jesus
You are the light of the world
You are light in our darkness
Bring hope into the lives of all people
Give your peace to all nations
Bless all of us gathered here
May we be living signs of reconciliation and harmony
May we reach out in solidarity and compassion to all in need
And let each of us carry your light in our hearts this day
Come Lord Jesus come.
Amen

Farewell Br Jeff Regan—Principal of St Dominics College for 10 years
Saturday 7th December 1pm—4pm College Community Farewell
Light lunch provided from 1:30pm RSVP 47 311933 - by 5 Dec (for catering purposes)

Semester 2 Reports 2013

Dear Parents and Caregivers

With the reports being sent home on Wednesday 11th December, it’s a timely opportunity for me to inform you of some key aspects in regards to understanding them in reference to the outcomes the children are being measured against.

Student's progress in their learning in the various Key Learning Areas (KLA's) is based on many forms of evidence coming from a variety of sources such as key assessment tasks, student work samples, observation, testing and teachers professional judgment which is then related back to programmed outcomes based on NSW Board of Studies syllabus.

The syllabus outcomes are arranged in stages so as to more closely identify with the learning continuum and range of development within a group of children. It provides the scope for a teacher to individually cater for the needs of a variety of students.

At primary level, K – 6, the syllabus is arranged as such:

Early Stage 1 (ES1) – Kindergarten
Stage 1 (S1) – Years 1 and 2
Stage 2 (S2) – Years 3 and 4
Stage 3 (S3) – Years 5 and 6

Your child’s report is referenced against stage appropriate outcomes. Hence, for example, children in Year 1 and 2 are being reported against the same outcomes. It stands to reason, that as a generalisation, the Year 2 children would be closer to achieving indicated outcomes than Year 1 children. This is reflected in the A – E grades where Year 1 students would generally be working towards a Stage 1 outcome and Year 2 children may have already achieved it having worked towards it for a longer period of time, as well as showing developmental growth. Hence, a child in Year 1 who is showing great growth in English, for example, may be graded lower (having not reached various outcomes) than a Year 2 child who has shown average growth.

The reports reflect the children’s growth across a learning continuum, which, as stated, is referenced against stage outcomes. It is also important to take time to understand what the grades mean as described on the last page of the reports.

This semester there has been a slight change in the format of the report in that under the English, Mathematics and Religious Education grades will appear a comment. The comments are in the form of short statements relating to what a child can demonstrate in a particular Key Learning Area or where they may be having difficulty.

If wish to discuss any aspect of your child’s learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school and arrange a meeting time with your child’s teacher before the end of the school year.

Kind regards
John Tomczyk (Assistant Principal)